

# Peru: the challenges imposed by sustainable development



Elsa Galarza, Minister of the Environment, assures that the fight against climate change is fundamental for the participation of the State, civil society, and especially indigenous populations.

**In 2014, Peru hosted COP 20 and one of the parties that prompted the signing of the Paris Agreement in 2015. In 2016, it signed the climate agreement and signed a series of international agreements in recent years. What are the actions that the Government, the private sector and Peruvian civil society must take in the face of the effects of climate change? According to the Minister of the Environment, Elsa Galarza, the**

**country could reduce by 20% the emission of greenhouse gases in 2030. Is it possible?**

**T**o deal with the effects of climate change there are two measures to consider: mitigation and adaptation. Both are interrelated. Mitigation is linked to policies, technologies and actions that allow, on the one hand, to limit and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and on the other hand,

to improve the sinks of these to increase the capacity to absorb greenhouse gases. Adaptation to climate change must consider not only how to reduce vulnerability to negative impacts, but also how to benefit from the positive effects. Adaptation measures should focus on the short and long term, and include components of environmental management, planning and disaster management.

1/ The public event "Challenges of climate change", co-organized with the European Union, had as its main speaker the Minister of the Environment, Elsa Galarza. The event was opened by Stefaan Pauwels, head of the Cooperation Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Peru. The comments were in charge of Alberto Aquino Ruiz, director of the Climate, Agro and Risk Transfer project, executed by the German Cooperation for Development and implemented by the GIZ; and César Gamboa, executive director of the NGO Law, Environment and Natural Resources (DAR). The moderator was Luis Campos Baca, president of the Research Institute of the Peruvian Amazon.

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According to the Minister of the Environment, Elsa Galarza, the problem of climate change is addressed within the framework of the development and sustainable growth of the country, and the participation of the State, civil society and especially indigenous populations is fundamental.

#### INTERNALIZE THE ENVIRONMENTAL APPROACH

Galarza mentioned that a part of the private sector is successfully taking measures of sustainable production. He gave as an example the cement industry that will substitute fossil fuels and incorporate solid waste. This action is being carried out within the framework of the integral management of solid waste,

which is part of the national policy that seeks the industrialization of these, thanks to the new Solid Waste Law.

In the field of agriculture and forests, said the minister, community forest management, efficient pasture production, among other issues, has been working. In this way, Galarza said that the empowerment of indigenous communities is achieved. "These measures are developed jointly and not in isolation, with the Ministries of Environment, Production and Agriculture," she said.

Regarding Peru's role in the global climate agenda, the official underscored the country's leadership, since it is the second in Latin America, after Mexico, which will have a Framework Law on Climate Change. "This law would strengthen environmental institutions, establishing the specific responsibility of the different sectors, as well as the obligation to incorporate the climate change dimension into their development plans," she explained.

In the area of adaptation, Galarza explained that the Peruvian State proposes preparation in five areas: agriculture, water, fisheries

and aquaculture, forests and health. How? Reducing current and future vulnerability, and investing in prevention.

In mitigation, she said that work will be done on energy, waste, transport, forests, agriculture and industry, proposing a 20% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. "This will be achieved through initiatives implemented with public resources and private, and an additional 10% conditioned to obtain international financing, which would lead to a 30% reduction in emissions," he said.

There are three approaches in the fight against climate change: intergenerational, multicultural and gender. Along these lines, Galarza spoke of formulating inclusive policies and thinking about the most vulnerable populations. Regarding the gender approach, she stressed that women with low resources are forced to look for water and the cost of doing so increases when climate change causes resource scarcity. She pointed out that a public policy that helps women has been to provide them with improved stoves to avoid contamination inside the home.

Stefaan Pauwels, head of the Cooperation Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Peru, said that the European Union (EU) has committed, in 2030, to reduce its emissions by 40% compared to 1990 levels. "We are clear that we must accelerate our efforts for this goal. The EU is preparing a new legislative package to meet this objective," said Pauwels. He also pointed out that the EU has shown that it is possible to decouple economic growth from emissions and that higher growth does not necessarily mean more emissions. "Between 1990 and last year, our economy grew more than 50% and our emissions decreased 25%," he said.



The minister also explained that the Gender and Climate Change Action Plan of the Ministry of the Environment (Minam), approved in 2016, promotes that the different entities of the State implement actions in accordance with their competences, related to the adaptation to climate change and management of greenhouse gas emissions.

Before the questions of the moderator, Luis Campos Baca, on what was the main work action carried out in 2017, what are the main challenges for 2018 and what is the strategy of involvement of non-governmental agents that the Government has put in place, the minister responded that from her portfolio a balance is established between the economy, the social and the environmental, and that from this entity the other sectors must be convinced to use clean energy, avoid congestion and carry out more actions for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

He said that in the first half of 2018 certain actions will be evaluated. In the second half, financing gaps and policies will be analyzed to enhance the dialogue, for which environmental responsibility must be clear. Finally, he added that the academy should improve information for decision-making and the private sector should do business with social responsibility and clean technologies. In this line, he indicated that it is necessary for the State to open a space of communication with other actors to transmit information and promote a real participation of the actors in the development of environmental policies.

## **MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ADAPTATION**

Alberto Aquino, director of the Climate, Agro and Risk Transfer

project, executed by the German Development Cooperation and implemented by GIZ, pointed out two crucial aspects in the integration of climate change in public management: how to go from the planning of the short to the long term, and how to go from having qualitative to quantitative arguments. He re-

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commended, for example, that the planning, statistical and other divisions of the sectors be linked and take measurements in order to be accountable in environmental matters. Therefore, the challenge of sustainable development is to in-

ternalize the environmental issue in different processes of the State.

Aquino mentioned that the private sector does not internalize the environmental issue as the main axis of development; For example, the Annual Conference of Executives (CADE) 2017 does not include the environmental issue in its agenda.

In turn, César Gamboa, executive director of the NGO DAR, commented that civil society not only has a critical or watchdog role but also a proactive role. He added that transparency is important to increase trust between the actors: academia, the private sector and the Government, among whom better communication channels must be established.

Regarding the balance between mitigation and adaptation to climate change, he recalled that there are resources and information for mitigation, but not for adaptation. He suggested that a future Climate Change Law contribute to the fulfillment of international commitments and national obligations in terms of vulnerability to climate change (adaptation).



According to César Gamboa (DAR), civil society not only has a surveillance role but also a proactive role. Transparency is key to increasing trust among the actors: academia, the private sector and the Government.